

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 03908 130516Z

11

ACTION NEA-16

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3121

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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LONDON FOR GLEYSTEN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF, IS

SUBJ: DEFENSE MINISTER PERES COMMENTS ON ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUES

1. SUMMARY. DEFENSE MINISTER PERES IN LENGTHY INTERVIEW WITH STAFF OF MAARIV JULY 12 COMMENTS ON ISRAELI ANTI-TERRORIST ACTIONS, ISRAELI-US VIEWS ON ANTI-TERRORISM, PALESTINIAN ENTITY ISSUE AND POSSIBILITY OF RESUMPTION OF WAR. END SUMMARY.

2. ISRAELI ANTI-TERRORIST ACTIONS. PERES BEGAN INTERVIEW MAARIV JULY 12 BY DESCRIBING CRUEL AND UNCOMPROMISING NATURE OF TERRORIST GROUPS AND SAID THAT ALL MEANS MUST BE USED TO STOP THEM. GIVEN METHODS OF OPERATION USED BY TERRORISTS, ISRAELI POSITION WAS THAT THEY MUST BE HIT EVERYWHERE.

3. COMMENTING ON IMPLICATION OF ISRAELI-ANTI-TERRORIST ACTIONS ON GOL, PERES SAID, "IF OUR INFORMATION CAMPAIGN HAS SUCCEEDED
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 03908 130516Z

IN ONE PLACE, IT IS IN LEBANON. THERE THEY UNDERSTAND THE

SEVERITY OF THE PROBLEM, THE VOLUME OF OUR ACTIONS, THE ROOTS OF THE ISRAELI REACTION, ITS AIMS AND ITS LIMITATIONS. THEY, THE LEBANESE, KNOW THAT WE TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE DELICATE BALANCE IN LEBANON. THEY UNDERSTAND THAT EACH ONE OF OUR ACTIONS IN LEBANON IS CARRIED OUT IN A BALANCED MANNER, AND THAT OUR ACTIONS ARE NOT INTENDED TO DESTROY THE INDEPENDENCE AND CHARACTER OF LEBANON BUT...TO GIVE IT ENOUGH IMPETUS NOT TO CAPITULATE TO TERRORISM NOR TO THOSE WHO 'SEEK TO HELP HER.' THE ESTABLISHMENT IN LEBANON UNDERSTANDS THIS."

4. PERES ADDED THAT EGYPT AND SYRIA HAVE SO FAR ADHERED TO SEPARATION AGREEMENTS AND HAVE NOT ALLOWED TERRORISTS TO OPERATE FROM THEIR TERRITORIES.

5. US-ISRAELI VIEWS ON ANTI-TERRORISM. PERES STATED, "WE HAVE NO AGREEMENT WITH THE AMERICANS ON THIS SUBJECT EXCEPT FOR A GENERAL UNDERSTANDING THAT TERRORISM MUST BE UPROOTED. THE AMERICANS EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ACCORDING TO THE NATURE OF THE ACTION. WE LISTEN. BUT OUR RIGHT TO FIGHT TERRORISM IS NOT IN DOUBT..
."

PERES ADDED THAT HE OPPOSED ANY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ISRAELI INITIATIVE IN WAR AGAINST TERRORISM. (COMMENT: THIS APPARENTLY IS A REFERENCE TO DISCUSSIONS WHICH HAVE SURFACED IN ISRAELI PRESS RE FORMATION OF AD HOC ANTI-TERRORIST GROUPS.)

6. ISRAELI ARABS AND TERRORISM. PERES STATED,
"THERE IS A DUTY TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THE ARABS IN GENERAL AND AS INDIVIDUALS." THE ARAB POPULATION AS A WHOLE (IN ISRAEL) IS AGAINST TERRORISM BECAUSE IT UNDERSTANDS ITS FUTILITY.

7. PALESTINIAN ENTITY ISSUE. PERES SAID "THOSE WHO CLAIM: 'WHY DON'T YOU SIT WITH THE PALESTINIANS (THEY MEAN TERRORISTS) AND WHY DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE THE EXISTENCE OF THE PALESTINIAN ENTITY?' - FORGET, BY MISTAKE OR PURPOSELY, THAT THE BASIS FOR THE PALESTINIANS' LOGIC IS THE NON-RECOGNITION OF THE ISRAELI ENTITY. THIS IS THE MOST UNCOMPROMISING POSITION TOWARDS ISRAEL. ISRAEL MUST UNDERTAKE AN INFORMATION COUNTER-OFFENSIVE. OUR APOLOGETIC DISTRESS HAS NO GROUND NOR JUSTIFICATION".

8. EGYPT. PERES SAID, "IN EGYPT TODAY THERE ARE TWO CONTRADICTORY
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PAGE 03 TEL AV 03908 130516Z

TENDENCIES... ONE IS A TENDENCY OF DEVELOPING EGYPT AND DIRECTING RESOURCES INTERNALLY...ON THE OTHER HAND...FOLLOWING THE SEPARATION AGREEMENTS WE SEE THE RESUMPTION OF THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN EGYPT AND USSR (WITH THE SOVIETS THEY DISCUSS ARMS AND NOT DEVELOPMENT)." PERES ALSO MENTIONED 3-4 RECENT "TOUGH AND EXTREME EXPRESSIONS" MADE BY SADAT RECENTLY.

9. RESUMPTION OF WAR. PERES SAID, "IT IS IMPOSSIBLE, OF COURSE,

TO STATE WITH CERTAINTY THAT THERE WILL BE A WAR AND I SHALL CERTAINLY NOT FORECASE WHEN IT WILL BREAK OUT...THERE ARE THREE CRITICAL PERIODS FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF WAR, ALTHOUGH IT DOES NOT NECESSARILY HAVE TO BREAK OUT* A) THE PERIOD OF DEVELOPMENT OF ARAB TERRORISM AND ISRAEL'S ACTIONS AGAINST IT, B) THE SECOND PHASE (OF NEGOTIATIONS), AND I SEE THAT WITHIN SIX MONTHS TO ONE YEAR, IF I T BECOMES CLEAR THAT IN SPITE OF ALL THE HOPES, POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS DO NOT SUCCEED. IN SUCH CASE - THE ARABS CERTAINLY INTEND TO RESUME THE MILITARY CONFRONTATION. AND C) IN THE LONGER TERM WHEN ARAB STRENGTH REACHES A POINT OF TEMPTATION..."

9. AMERICAN PROMISES. PERES SAID, "IT IS CLEAR TO US THAT ISRAEL CANNOT ENTER FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE (AMERICAN) PROMISES ARE FULFILLED..." (COMMENT: PRESUMABLY SHORT TERM ARMS SUPPLIES.) "AS AN ISRAELI I HAVE FOUND NO DISCREPANCY BETWEEN WHAT THE AMERICANS PROMISED US AND WHAT THEY HAVE ACTUALLY DONE. I HAVE READ REPORT ABOUT KISSINGER'S POSITION ON THIS MATTER WHICH WERE NOT IN LINE WITH WHAT I LEARNED WHEN I MET WITH HIM IN WASHINGTON..."
VELIOTES

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